

File Code: 1950

Date: December 21, 2017

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is to inform you that the final environmental assessment (EA) for the Packers Bay Invasive Plant Species Removal Project has been completed and the project is now subject to a 45-day objection period. As the Responsible Official, I have prepared a draft decision notice which describes the proposed decision to select Alternative 1, as described in the EA, and the reasons for the decision. Both documents are available on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest project website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/stnf/landmanagement/projects>. If you would like us to send you a compact disc or a hard copy of these documents, please notify Todd Johnson at the Shasta Lake Ranger Station, 14225 Holiday Road; Redding, CA 96003; (530) 275-1587 or toddjohnson@fs.fed.us.

The project is located within the Shasta Lake Ranger District/National Recreation Area Management Unit and includes portions of Sections 20, 21, 28 and 29, Township 34 North, Range 4 West, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian. The selected alternative would allow us to treat non-native invasive broom [Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), and Spanish broom (*Spartium junceum*)] infestations, reduce or eliminate the seed bank, and re-establish native vegetation on approximately 112 acres of National Forest System lands. Treatments will include: 1) using chainsaws and hand tools to cut the broom near ground level; 2) cut vegetation will either be piled and burned, or hauled away for disposal in a landfill; 3) using hand-held herbicide applicator wands and/or hand-held spray bottles to apply the herbicide combined with a surfactant and a colorant (dye) to the freshly cut broom stumps; 4) follow-up treatments including herbicide application, hand pulling, and prescribed under-burning within treated areas to kill broom seedlings and seed bank; and 5) re-vegetating treatment areas with native plants where needed to lower the potential for re-invasion of invasive plants. Two herbicides, aminopyralid and glyphosate, would be used initially and a selection process initiated to determine the most effective for cut stump treatment. Both are known to be effective on broom.

This project is subject to the Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process (Objection Process) pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B.

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with §218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted, timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed, via mail, fax, email, or hand-delivery (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., excluding holidays), with David R. Myers, Forest Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, at the following addresses. Mail: 3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, CA 96002; Fax: (530) 226-2471; or Email: comments-pacificsouthwest-shasta-trinity@fs.fed.us. Electronically filed objections may be submitted by email in word (.doc or .docx), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and portable document format (.pdf).



Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice in the Redding Record Searchlight (newspaper of record). Publication in the *Record Searchlight* is estimated for Tuesday, December 26, 2017. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure evidence of timely receipt (36 CFR 218.9).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.8(d), at a minimum, an objection must include the following: 1) name, address and telephone; 2) signature or other verification of authorship; 3) identify a single lead objector when applicable; 4) project name, Responsible Official name and title, and name of affected National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s); 5) reasons for, and suggested remedies to resolve your objections; and, 6) description of the connection between your objections and your prior comments.

Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

For additional information regarding this project, contact Todd Johnson at the Shasta Lake Ranger Station, 14225 Holiday Road; Redding, CA 96003; (530) 275-1587 or toddjohnson@fs.fed.us.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,



LESLEY YEN
District Ranger